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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CAMBODIA

IPF:(1992-96) $81 629 000

(CMB/92/020) - Preparatory Assistance for the Employment Generation Programme

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	22 July 1992
Expected duration:	Six months
Proposed executing agency:	ILO
Government implementing agency:	Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 901 500 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 901 500

Project background

An important element of the Cambodia peace process is the return, resettlement and reintegration of 'returnees' consisting of 377,000 Thai-border Khmers, 190,000 soldiers to be demobilized and 180,000 internally displaced persons, which is essential for the overall stability and security of Cambodia. In response to this need and to the Secretary-General's Appeal for external assistance during the transitional period in this regard, UNDP and ILO are presently preparing a comprehensive "Employment Generating Programme" addressing the needs of all Cambodians but focusing in the initial period on assisting the 'returnees' to find civilian employment opportunities following their resettlement.

Based on the results of a sample survey assessing the intentions and skills of the soldiers conducted by ILO in February 1992 and based on the recommendations of the UNDP-led Rural Integration Strategy (RIS) mission, it is felt that the Employment Generating programme should focus on the non-agricultural sector. Indeed, both the survey and the RID report concluded that many of the resettling populations will either choose to take-up non-farming activities or be forced to do so since inadequate availability of de-mined arable land is rapidly becoming a major constraint to resettlement. It will thus be necessary to equip the reintegrating populations with means and skills to compete and secure employment and a means of livelihood in the non-agricultural sector, and also to prevent an uncontrolled secondary migration movement to important urban centers.

The main constraints identified in hampering the ability of the reintegrating populations to find non-agricultural employment can be attributed to the lack of vocational and manual skills among the population, qualified personnel, updated curricula and modern teaching materials in the existing vocational training centers, qualified personnel in the

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[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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management and operations of large-scale rehabilitation projects such as roads rehabilitation and irrigation repairs; and the non-existence of appropriate infrastructure to support the development of small-scale enterprises and of credit systems operating outside Phnom Penh. To address these constraints and meet the needs of a broad spectrum of the population, the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Three separate components detailed in the Programme are as follows: (1) For those with few manual or vocational skills, a Labour-based Public Works project will provide immediate employment opportunities to a large number of idle workers and significantly improve the agricultural production through expanded irrigated areas, the health situation through increased water storage facilities, and the access to market and services through the rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary roads; (2) For those persons with some manual and or vocational skills, a Vocational Training project will offer 3 to 6 months intensive courses which will enable them to acquire employable skills (including self-employment) needed in the local economy and build on the already available substantial infrastructure in the area of vocational retaining by upgrading facilities and manpower at the National Training Centre in Phnom Penh, and existing provincial training centers in Battambang, Kompong Cham and Kampot; and (3) For those with a higher level of education, a Small Enterprise Promotion project will allow them to improve their managerial and business skills and provide training in management, advisory services on business opportunities and technology choices as well as administer small-scale credit loans made available by the provision of a revolving fund established under the project.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) help develop in more detail all the aspects of the Employment Generating programme and three separate project documents; (b) identify and specify UNDP and other donors assistance to each of the components; and (c) provide the necessary inputs to undertake essential preparatory work for the implementation of the main programme.

Project activities will include: (a) undertaking a publicity campaign aimed at increasing the awareness of the proposed Employment Generation Programme among potential beneficiaries, particularly the demobilized soldiers; (b) training 60 engineering supervisors, 16 engineers and 48 technicians for the management of the labour-based activities; selection and training of suitable national small enterprise promotion personnel; and (c) identifying sites and physical facilities for the vocational training, small enterprises promotion training centers, minimal physical rehabilitation of the buildings, and preparation of training materials and tools and list of equipment.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 5.5 work-months for a small enterprise promotion coordinator, four work-months for a labour-based coordinator, 2.5 work-months for a vocational training coordinator, nine work-months for engineering specialists, two work-months for an equipment specialist; in-country training programmes; expendable and non-expendable equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	397 500
Subcontract	122 000
Training	262 500
Equipment	100 000
Miscellaneous	19 500
Total	901 500